

REMARKS

The present communication is filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 11, 2008 ("Office Action") rejecting all claims pending in the application. With the present amendments, claims 1-14, 20-22, and 24-45 are pending in this application. In light of the amendments above and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

A telephone discussion between the Examiner and the undersigned was held on January 31, 2008. The undersigned thanks the Examiner for her time and consideration for such telephone discussion.

All of the claims have been rejected in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,673,333 to Johnston ("Johnston"), either alone or in combination with other references.

During the interview, the undersigned discussed the differences between the present invention and Johnston. While the Examiner acknowledged -- subject to further consideration -- that there may be differences between the invention as explained and Johnston, the Examiner was unsure whether the claims as written actually distinguished over Johnston. In particular, the Examiner suggested amending the definition of "extracting" to clarify that the invention does more than simply capture and route an image from a printed document.

Claim 20

In that regard, and using the example of Claim 20, Applicant has amended the claims to recite that the information is extracted by "recognizing information contained in the document with the aid of a computer." Various dependant claims provide non-limiting examples of such recognition techniques, such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR), Image-Character Recognition, and Optical Mark Recognition techniques (see Claims 43-45).

Claim 20 and other claims have also been amended to recite that the document itself is routed to one location and the recognized content that was extracted is routed to a different location. The routing depends on the type of document which was also extracted from the document.

The specification provides a non-limiting example of the method as currently claimed in Claim 20. Various ways of recognizing information contained in a document are described in paragraph [0039] of the specification. One example of recognizing information contained in a document is by Optical Character Recognition (OCR). Alternatively, other recognition technologies can be used such as Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) or Optical Mark Recognition (OMR).

As described in paragraph [0047], the data extracted from the document includes the type of the document such as, by way of example only, a purchase order or a mortgage application, of the specification.

As claimed in Claim 20, the recognized content is extracted from the document as one or more field names and associated data values, and represents information from the document. For example, and as described in paragraph [0039], the recognized content representing an individual's information extracted from a form document might be: "First Name" = "John", "Last Name" = "Smith", and "Age" = "32". In this example, the field names correspond to "First Name", "Last Name", and "Age", and the associated data values correspond to "John", "Smith", and "32", respectively.

As claimed in Claim 20, after data is extracted in the manner described above from the document, the document is routed to a first location, whereas the recognized content extracted from the document is routed to a second and different location based on the type of the document. Various routing scenarios based on the type of the document are described in paragraphs

[0046]-[0047] of the specification. For example, the document could be routed to a document archive location for long or short term storage, whereas the recognized content extracted from the document including both the field names and the associated data values of "First Name" = "John", "Last Name" = "Smith", and "Age" = "32", could instead be routed to a customer application at one or more specified locations for immediate further processing.

Johnston

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner stated that *Johnston* teaches extracting the content of the document because *Johnston* discloses that the "recognition and processing means 84 checks whether the deposit item has been fully completed by the user, e.g., by being signed, dated and having amount information entered thereon in the case of a cheque..." (Office Action at p.3.) (Emphasis Added.) The Examiner has further stated that checking for "[s]uch signature, date and amount information are considered as field names and associated data values representing information from the document". (Office Action at p.3.) (Emphasis Added.)

As an initial matter, it is not clear how the Examiner reaches this conclusion. *Johnston* merely teaches inspecting the check in predetermined locations for the presence of a signature, date and amount of the check. (*Johnston*, col. 5, lns. 18-32.) While there is a portion of *Johnston* not relied upon by the Examiner which teaches extracting the amount written on the check and printing the amount on the check (*Johnston*, col. 6, lns. 42-50), there is no teaching in this portion relating to field names.

Additionally, the Examiner stated in the Office Action that *Johnston* discloses that the content of the document is routed because *Johnston* displays an image of a check to the user. (Office Action at p.3.) Claim 20 clarifies that what is

routed is the recognized content that has been extracted from the document, and not an unrecognized image of the document as disclosed in *Johnston*. The claim also clarifies that what is routed is the recognized content extracted from the document, including both the extracted field names and the associated data values (in other words, not simply an unrecognized image of the document).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is patentably distinct in view of *Johnston*, and respectfully requests allowance. Applicant also respectfully submits that the patentability of the remaining claims -- though patentably distinguishable from claim 20 -- is similarly clearly in view of the foregoing remarks.

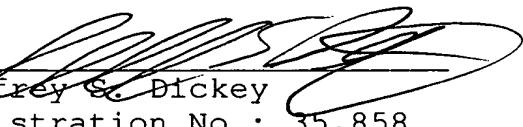
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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